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STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year, 1949.

In accordance with the procedure adopted last year, at the direction of the Ministry of Health, the Report is divided into the following sections :—

"A" Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
"B" General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
"C" Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
"D" Housing.
"E" Inspection and Supervision of Food.
"F" Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

MAIN OCCUPATIONS OF THE AREA.

The principal industries comprise the manufacture of carpets, ceramic insulators, blackplate and bright strip, cast iron hinges and holloware, chains for many purposes, steel wire braid and tape, wire cables, fans, forges, furnaces, woodwork, valves and valve accessories, and old-established vinegar works, and several firms engaged in the storage and distribution of petrol and oil. In addition, there is one of the largest power stations in the Midlands.

SECTION "A"

Area (in acres)	3,204
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books	2,595
Rateable Value	£48,728
Sum represented by one Penny Rate	£189
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Mid. 1949)	9,680

Live Births

	Male	*Female*	*Totals* **1949**	*Totals* **1948**
Legitimate	101	84	185	199
Illegitimate	2	7	9	10
	103	91	194	209

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Urban District was	20.0	22.3
The Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period was	16.7	17.9

Still Births.

	Male	*Female*	*Totals* 1949	1948
Legitimate	1	1	2	2
Illegitimate	–	1	1	–
	1	2	3	2

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population was	0.31	0.21
The Still Birth rate per 1,000 civilian population for England and Wales for the same period was	0.39	0.42

Deaths.

Male	*Female*	1949	1948
67	50	117	81

The Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population was	12.1	8.6
The Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was	11.7	10.8
Maternity Mortality Rate for the year per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was	Nil	Nil
Maternity Mortality Rate in England and Wales for the same period was	0.98	1.02

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	Male	*Female*	1949	1948
Legitimate	6	1	7	5
Illegitimate	–	–	–	–
	6	1	7	5

The Infant Mortality rate for the year was ...	36.1	23.9
The Infantile Mortality rate for the same period for England and Wales was	32	34
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	26	17
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	–	–
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	–
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	–

Causes of Deaths (including Transferable Deaths).

Ref. No.	*Males*	*Females*
4—Whooping Cough	–	1
6—Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2
9—Influenza	–	2
13—Cancer of Buccal Cavity, Oesophagus; Uterus	–	2
14—Cancer of Stomach	2	1

15—Cancer of Breast	–	3
16—Cancer of all other sites	8	10
17—Diabetes	1	–
18—Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	6	7
19—Heart Disease	22	10
20—Circulatory Diseases	1	–
21—Bronchitis	5	4
22—Pneumonia	4	–
23—Other Respiratory Diseases	1	–
25—Diarrhoea, under 2 years	1	–
27—Digestive Diseases...	1	2
28—Nephritis	1	–
31—Premature Births	3	–
32—Malformation and Congenital Diseases	2	–
34—Road Traffic Accident	1	–
35—Other violent causes	2	–
36—All other causes	5	6

SECTION "B"

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Services. The examination of food, milk and water is undertaken by the County Laboratory, Worcester. All the remaining bacteriological and pathogical work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Services. This service is administered by the County Council as Local Health Authority, and based in Kidderminster. An ambulance for infectious cases is stationed at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital (under the control of the Regional Hospital Board).

Hospitals.

All hospitals are administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board, through their Management Committees.

The Kidderminster General Hospital receives the majority of hospital patients from this district.

The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district and surrounding areas with maternity beds.

Cases admitted during the year	389
Women delivered	389
Infants born alive (including 13 sets twins) ...	402
Infants Deaths	5
Infants stillborn	10
Maternal deaths	Nil
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	6
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil

Infectious Diseases. Beds for Infectious Diseases are provided at the Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen. 1 case of infectious disease from Stourport Urban District was admitted during the year.

Tuberculosis. Outpatient treatment is provided at the Kidderminster Hospital Dispensary, where Dr. Cronin attends on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. In-patient treatment is arranged at Knightwick Sanatorium as early as present staffing difficulties permit. Prevention and After-care remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, and the service is administered locally by the After-care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

Venereal Disease. Treatment and " follow-up " are carried out at the following :—

Kidderminster and District General Hospital.
Worcester Royal Infirmary.
Other neighbouring hospitals as required.

Nursing in the Home. This service is administered by the Local Health Authority. There are:

(*i*) Two Nurses who deal principally with Midwifery and General Nursing. A car is provided.

(*ii*) A whole time Health Visitor, and School Nurse who attends school medical inspections, treats minor ailments at the School clinic, visits cases of tuberculosis and mental defects. She visits infants and children in the home and is responsible for their welfare from 14 days until they attend school at 5 years, when they continue under the school scheme. She attends all Infant Welfare Clinics in this District.

Clinics. Stourport.—An Ante-Natal Clinic is held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, in charge of Dr. MacArthur, Dr. Mackie, Dr. Winter and Matron respectively.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on the first and third Friday in each month at the Lucy Baldwin Clinic. Children under five are immunised against diphtheria at this Clinic, and vaccination is carried out as required.

Areley Kings.—An Infant Welfare Centre, in charge of Dr. Winter, is held in the Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The majority of dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is Mount Pleasant, Bewdley. There is ample for the needs of the area and further mains extensions have been laid to serve the extending Walshes Farm Housing Estate.

Samples taken regularly, in conjunction with Borough of Bewdley, for chemical and bacteriological analyses have given satisfactory results. The water was found to be satisfactory, both in quantity and quality, and there is no plumbo-solvent action. There are 2,504 dwelling houses connected to the town water mains, affording a supply for some 9,070 persons. In addition, approximately 227 dwelling houses obtain their supply from wells catering for about 793 persons.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year, the disposal of sewage was satisfactorily dealt with at the Oldington Sewage Disposal Works, used jointly with the Boroughs of Kidderminster and Bewdley. With the exception of certain outlying properties and the Titton district, the whole of the area is provided with main drainage. It is pleasing to report that instructions have been given for work to commence on the Wilden School conversion early next year.

In both Areley Kings and Wilden areas there are a small number of properties not yet converted to Water Carriage System or connected to the sewer, though such conversion presents no difficulty. Every effort is being made to have this work carried out.

SECTION "D"

Housing.

Walshes Farm No. 1 Housing site was completed (104 traditional type), also Walshes Farm No. 2 (50 " Wates " type), and the erection of a further 32 " Wates " was completed on Walshes Farm No. 3 site.

The Housing Manager gives the following figures for the end of the year, 1949 :—

Number of Council Houses in the District	654
Number of Houses requisitioned by the Council ...	4
Number of Applicants for Council Houses	419
Number of above Applicants who are living in lodgings	251
Approximate total number of persons represented by application list	1670

With regard to houses considered unfit for human habitation still remaining in the district, there were no demolition orders made, although five undertakings were given during the year. 19 Families were re-housed during the year from condemned property.

Burlish Estate.

At the end of the year work was commenced on the conversion of 35 huts in Burlish No. 1 Camp (now Estate) to 54 Bungalows (21 two-bedroom type and 33 three-bedroom type).

It is painful to record that, despite repeated representation, the Ministry of Health did not agree to the small extra cost required for the installation of a bathroom or adequate means of heating water. A bathroom and bath could most easily have been arranged while the conversion was in progress and would be difficult to add at a later date. Only the simplest system of plumbing has been envisaged. It is intended to press for the installation of an electric wash boiler in each bungalow.

Again, owing to financial restrictions, the cooking range fitted in the living room was of the free standing portable type. Any such range is difficult to guard, and is a danger to young children, especially if this is the only method of heating quantities of water.

The problem presented by the Titton and Walshes Farm area of Bungalows, shacks and caravans remains unchanged, and the severe shortage of housing accommodation makes it impossible to improve conditions in these areas at present. The whole question of such shacks and their location is under consideration by the County Planning Committee, both for this area and the County as a whole. It is hoped that some concrete proposals may be forthcoming at a later date.

SECTION "E"

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Ice Cream Manufacture.

Manufacturers and retailers have continued under supervision by the Health Department. No action was necessary beyond advice regarding premises.

Adulteration of Foods.

Mr. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports that 60 samples of milk, and 32 samples of other foods were taken for analysis during the year. These were all found to be satisfactory.

Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year, either at Clinics, Schools, or by the General Practitioners, was as follows :—

1.	Pre-School Children	206
2.	School Children	22
3.	Re-inforcing doses	112
		340

At the end of 1949, the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups of 0—5 and 5—14 years were 57.8 and 78.4 respectively.

Poliomyelitis.

Only one case of this disease (a 2 year old girl) occured in the district, and the patient has made a complete recovery.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

This was an epidemic year for measles and the incidence of Whooping Cough increased. There is no doubt that parents in this district do not keep their children properly isolated during the infectious phases of these diseases. This is particularly unfortunate when it is remembered that the danger of both diseases is much increased when infection occurs in young babies.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown on the following tables:—

Diseases	*Total Cases Notified*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Erysipelas	1	–	–
Scarlet Fever	10	–	–
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	–	–
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	6	–	–
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	1	–	–
Measles	285	–	–
Whooping Cough ...	86	–	–
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	7	–	–

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		*Non. Pulmonary*		*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
35	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
45	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
55	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–
65 and over	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTALS	4	2	–	–	1	2	–	–

Conclusion.

Despite the good progress made with the construction of houses during the year, the problem of those without proper homes remains above all others. So many " troubles," domestic, mental and physical are directly, or indirectly, due to the lack of a home, with all that this entails. I hope that the Council will allow nothing to delay further rapid progress with the provision of houses in the district.

I should like to thank the Chairman, all Members of the Council, and the Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1949.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I respectfully beg to present my Annual Report of certain work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Inspections and Notices.

During the year, 845 visits of inspection and re-inspection were made to houses and other premises under the various Acts, Byelaws and Regulations in connection with housing, abatement of nuisances, infectious diseases, etc. It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings to secure compliance with notices served.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfections.

Details of the various types of notifiable diseases are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. As in previous years, inspections and the supply of disinfectants have been continued.

Refuse Scavenging.

The collection of refuse was again carried out in a systematic manner by direct labour. The refuse has continued to be disposed of by tipping.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

Water Supply.

The bulk supply of water obtained from the Bewdley Corporation has been entirely satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity. It was not found necessary to impose any restrictions as to the use of water during the year.

Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades were established during the year.

Rodent Control.

Ten cases of rat infestation were treated. They were only of a minor nature and were successfully dealt with by baiting. Attention was also given to the Council's Refuse Tip and Sewage Pumping Station.

Food Inspection.

This matter has received attention during the year. In addition to the usual quantities of meat examined, large quantities of tinned food, such as milk, fruit, fish, etc., have been surrendered and destroyed.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LEWIS H. POOLE,

Sanitary Inspector.

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